

# The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association November 1998, Vol. 65, No. 11

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**and more...**

**Thursday, Nov 5**

**This Month's Meeting**

Marjie, KA1HIA

Bob Hess, W1RH is going to tell us all about Digital TV, which is now reality in several markets around the country, and will be the new standard by 2006. That's right, everything you know about TV signals will be obsolete in seven years, so come find out what you need to know about the new digital video.

## Submitting Material to the Circuit

Material may be submitted for publication by sending it directly to the editor. This can be done by phone, by US Mail, or via the Internet (preferred). The deadline for each issue is the **Wednesday**, one week before the monthly meeting.

### by phone

Home:  
(508) 435-2055 (before 9:00PM please!)

College:

(508) 910-5296

### by mail

Robert Hess, N1UVA  
1 Cold Spring Brook Road  
Hopkinton, MA 01748

### by internet

[n1uva@ultranet.com](mailto:n1uva@ultranet.com)

## President's Message

The chilly weather and colorful leaves seem to have arrived (mostly onto my lawn, it seems). Time to check those antennas and order those kits for winter building. Speaking of kits, I just wrote a check to Elecraft for my new K2 QRP kit. I should be receiving a package this month. To say I'm eager would be understating the case considerably! Those of you who might be thinking of trying to build your own rig are welcome on Wednesday evenings at the shack. I don't think we have had a single failure. Think about what you'd like to build, or come down and we can talk about some possibilities. It's really not that hard, and then, there's the big thrill of building your own gear!

Last weekend, I helped Fran, KA4FRH, with the Scout Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) at Nobscot Reservation (ask me for directions to the East Gate). We had quite a FARA crew there, Fran's son, Adam, N1TBO, Nels, N1UR, Brian, N1JFO, Rich, Rich's son, and my son, Mike, N1VZW. It was a beautiful fall day, pleasantly cool, with a bright sun and blue sky peeking through a leafy canopy. After we got the equipment and antenna problems out of the way, we spent the afternoon playing radio with more Cub Scouts than I have ever seen in my life! We talked to other JOTA stations in Ohio, Michigan, North Carolina and West Virginia. It was pretty frantic, but some of the scouts really seemed to light up when they got on the radio. I have to thank Jim, W1EQW, for the loan of his trap dipole, and Lee, KA1USL, who would have loaned me his vertical, if we had been able to get together. The afternoon wouldn't have been such a big success without all the FARA people who showed up to help.

The packet cluster is starting to come together, Martin, AA1ON, is finally going to be able to mow his back yard without worrying about mowing his coax, too. I spent an enjoyable afternoon with Martin, stringing cable through 10 foot PVC pipe sections. He should be back on the air by the time you read this.

73,

Peter, KA1AXY

## Hello to FARA from the Desert!

by Carol, N1XYG

I wish I could tell you about all of the the great radio contacts I've been making out here in Arizona. There are lots of antennas to be seen, including on the roof of the Engineering building on campus. Unfortunately, I'm completely buried under statistical analysis, financial statements, supply and demand curves, etc. This MBA program forces us into 17 credits and I'm working in a research lab besides. Needless to say, I haven't been on the air since I arrived in Tucson. However, while driving out here last August, I did get on 2-meters in New Jersey, Tennessee, North Carolina and Arkansas - that was fun, and helped me stay awake while driving. I spent 6 days driving out here, taking every scenic route I could find. I drove through the all of Appalachia, the Ozarks, Oklahoma (which was better than Arkansas), some of Texas and New Mexico (the most dramatic and beautiful!).

The weather here in the desert has gotten beautiful - cool nights and temps in the 80's during the day.

It's been great getting the Circuit and hearing what's happening back home. I trust the last flea market was a success, leading to another FARA-food pizza night.

I can be reached by e-mail at:

[sacks@mail.bpa.arizona.edu](mailto:sacks@mail.bpa.arizona.edu)

#### Activities Director Steps Down

by Peter, KA1AXY

FARA would like to thank Marjie Stern, KA1HIA, for her many years of service as Activities Director. Marjie has decided to step down, and FARA is looking for a new Activities Director. If you're interested, please contact any of the officers.

#### Interested in Running a Net?

by Peter, KA1AXY

Don't worry, nobody will grade you on your performance :-)  
We are changing the Sunday night net to have rotating net controls. I'm in the barrel this coming Sunday (11/1).  
I'm looking for others who would like to take a turn. I'll post a schedule on the web page. Let me know if you're interested and what Sundays you're free for a half hour or so at 7:30 PM. Oh...format? I'll also post a script. You can listen this weekend and see how badly I screw up :-)  
The goal is to get people comfortable running nets. ALL are encouraged to try it at least once.

#### Do You Have an EMAIL Address?

FARA would like to develop a list of members' email addresses. Please, send us mail so that we can add your email address to the FARA database. Send a message to [fara@fara.org](mailto:fara@fara.org) and we'll take it from there!

#### QSL Card

Submitted by Bob, W1RH



Until recently, the Spratly's have been among the rarest of the rare DXCC countries. China, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Vietnam each claim all or part of the 50 islands and, with the discovery of oil, are not about to give up those claims. Hams have been fired upon and some have lost their lives trying to operate from the Spratly's. Malaysia has developed one of the islands into a resort which has made it easier to conduct dxpeditions. Several of these dxpeditions, in the last couple of years, have given many hams the ability to work this DXCC country. I worked the Spratly's in April, 1990 on 10 meters from California. Although they were still very rare in 1990, this dxpedition was very easy to work from California.

*The Circuit is in need of QSL cards!!!*

*If you would like to share your favorite QSL card, which could be your own, with the club, please send it my way! A caption or story would be appreciated also.*

*Don't let not having a scanner keep you from sending in your favorite card. Many FARA Members have access to scanners, including Bob, W1RH.*

### READ THE CIRCUIT ONLINE... SAVES PAPER AND POSTAGE

email [fara@fara.org](mailto:fara@fara.org) and we'll set you up!

#### Membership Dues

Annual membership dues are as follows: (Make checks payable to FARA)  
Regular FARA \$10  
Student / Retired \$5  
Repeater (voluntary) \$10

#### FARA Horizons

Nov 5: Monthly Meeting  
Nov 23: Board Meeting

#### Change of Address

If you would like to change the address on your Circuit label please direct all requests to Bev, N1L00. She can be reached by the following:  
Email: [b-blees@juno.com](mailto:b-blees@juno.com)  
Phone: 626-2012

